

at on in → position 2

a. We say that someone is at an event. For example: “at a party / at a concert / at a conference / at the movies / at a game / at a match”:

Examples:

Were there many people **at the party / at the meeting**?

I saw Jonathan **at the Liga game / at the recital** on Saturday.

b. We say:

at work	at an airport	at sea	in bed	on a farm
at a station	at the seashore	at the shore	in prison /jail	in the hospital

Examples:

I'll be **at work** until 5:00.

Have you ever worked **on a farm**?

Can you pick me up **at the airport**?

Tim's father is **in the hospital**.

You can say **be home / stay home** with or without **at**:

Examples:

We'll be out during the morning, but we'll **be (at)** home all afternoon.

I didn't go out last night. I just **stayed (at)** home.

c. You can be **in** or **at** college/school. Use **at college** or **at school** when you are thinking of the college/school as a place or when you give the name of a college/school.

Examples:

Daniel will be **in college / in school** for two more years.

Kevin is away **at college** right now, but he'll be home for the summer.

Tina's majoring in communications **at UCLA**.

d. You can often use **in** or **at** with buildings. You can stay **in a hotel** or **at a hotel**. You can eat **in a restaurant** or **at a restaurant**. We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example: a concert, a movie, a meeting, a sports event, etc.)

Examples:

We went to a concert **at the Kimmel Center**.

The meeting took place **at the company's headquarters**.

"Where were you last night?" "At the theater."

We say **at** someone's house:

Example:

I was **at Stew's house** last night. (or I was **at Stew's** last night.)

We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself.

Examples:

The rooms **in Stew's** house are very small.

I enjoyed the movie, but it was very warm **in the theater**.

e. We usually say **in** with cities, towns, and villages:

Example:

Chuck's friend lives **in** Philadelphia. (*not* "at Philadelphia")

But you can use **at** when the city, town, or village is a point on a journey.

Examples:

Do you know if this bus stops **at** Dover?

We stopped **at** a pretty town on the way to San Diego.

f. We say **arrive IN** a country or town:

When did he **arrive in Russia / in Moscow**?

We say **arrive AT** with other places (buildings, etc.) or events:

What time did he **arrive at school / at work / at the hotel / at the party**?

We say **arrive home** (without a preposition):

When did he **arrive home**?